



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 8, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Fernando Gutierrez

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Thief Sentenced to 2 Years

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Fernando Gutierrez, age 27, of Turlock, was convicted of residential burglary and auto theft. Gutierrez is currently on probation stemming from a commercial burglary in December 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On July 25, 2009 at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Picard Lane in Turlock, Gutierrez backed his car onto the driveway of a home and walked to the rear of the residence. Gutierrez then broke into the home and walked out the front door with two flat screen televisions, a social security card, and credit cards belonging to the homeowner. When a neighbor yelled, "What are you doing?" Gutierrez jumped into his car and accelerated away. The neighbor then called 911 to report what he observed. Within hours, Gutierrez was stopped in his car. The stolen items were located inside a motel room that Gutierrez had rented with his friends. After being arrested, the defendant posted bail and was released from custody.

On September 16, 2009 at approximately midnight in the area of "B" Street and Morton Boulevard in Modesto, Gutierrez was driving a 1999 green Ford Mustang and failed to stop at a stop sign. A routine license plate check revealed that the car was reported stolen the day before out of the owner's driveway in Newark. Gutierrez claimed that he borrowed the car but kept it longer than he should have.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Gutierrez to two years in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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